

Document #607

A message addressed to the War Minister from the Commander-in-chief of the Kwantung Army.

Document number: 'Kan-San' No. 323. (Secret document).

Date: April 3, 1932. Hour of dispatch 9.00 p. m.

Note: Identical message was dispatched to the Chief of the Army General Staff, dated April 4, 1932.

Regarding the recent dispatch of a part of the Chosen Army to Chientao, I understand the main objective lies in the protection of Japanese residents there. Accordingly, I believe it favorable for the unification of our Manchurian policy that the general administrative functions in Chientao be conducted by the Manchuiuo Government under the guidance of the Kwantung Army, since Chientao at present has already become a territory of Manchukuo. But, in view of the historical relations between the Government-General of Chosen and the said district as well as of the peculiarities of the said district, the Kwantung Army is ready to pay full respect to their opinions and afford conveniences to them.

I believe you have no objections that the execution of our policies regarding the whole of Manchukuo, under these circumstances, should, insofar as it involves negotiations with Manchukuo, be left chiefly to the Kwantung Army for unified and joint execution according to the measures decided upon in the recent Cabinet Council. In view of the recent conduct of Japanese Government offices and various other representing organs in Manchukuo, however, I fear that unless we make it thoroughgoing, confusion might arise. I seek your opinion about this matter.

A cipher telegram addressed to the Commander-in-chief of the Kwantung Army from the War Minister in reply to the previous message.

Subject: On the unification of policies towards Manchukuo.

Document number: 'Riku-Man' No. 629. (Secret document).

Date: April 5, 1932.

In reply to your telegrams 'Kan-San' No. 323 and No. 334, I agree in principle to your opinion regarding unification in the execution of our Manchurian policies as well as to the policy of the Army under your command regarding the Chientao question. Considering the actual state of affairs in that area as well as its historical relations, however, I hope you will keep in contact and cooperate with the various organs concerned. Regarding matters relating to the Supreme Command, instructions will be issued by the Chief of the Army General Staff.